

Mr. J. A. Scalice
 Chief Nuclear Officer and
 Executive Vice President
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 6A Lookout Place
 1101 Market Street
 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

February 9, 1999

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - CORRECTION REGARDING SPENT FUEL POOL STORAGE RACKS

Dear Mr. Scalice:

This letter is in response to your letter dated November 13, 1998 regarding the testing and monitoring to be performed following installation of spent fuel pool racks in the Watts Bar Unit 1 (WBN) spent fuel pool. Your letter identified a discrepancy between several sections of the staff's safety evaluation accompanying the amendment to the facility operating license that was issued on July 28, 1997, on this subject.

In section 2.4.2 of the safety evaluation, the staff noted that, based on the WBN submittals, after installation of the spent fuel racks they would be subjected to a 100 percent drag test which would check for storage cell distortion caused by the hydrogen-induced swelling. The WBN submittals also indicated that, at each refueling, drag would be monitored during insertion and withdrawal of fuel assemblies. However, in the Conclusions section 2.4.3 of the safety evaluation, the above findings were consolidated to the phrase, "drag tests, to be performed at each refueling outage." We are in agreement with your letter of November 13, 1998 that this latter phrase would incorrectly indicate that the staff had approved the subject action based on performance of drag tests at each refueling outage. The intent of the staff in this review was to establish that WBN would monitor insertion and withdrawal of fuel assemblies at each refueling outage and was not to require that drag tests be performed beyond the initial drag tests.

We trust that this clarifies the concerns addressed in your letter of November 13, 1998.

Sincerely,
 Original signed by
 Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager
 Project Directorate II-3
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

ccs: See next page

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